

Sunday, December 14
SERVICES @8:30 AM & 10:45 AM

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES FOR ALL: 9:50 AM-10:35 AM

Pastor David Rawley will bring the sermon:



"The Journey of Jesus"

Jesus was born in Bethlehem, but Bethlehem was just one temporary stop on His earthly journey. There were others.

146 LEITERSBURG ST. | GREENCASTLE, PA 17225-1324

Otterbein Church
OF THE UNITED BRETHREN IN CHRIST

Joseph and Mary were from Nazareth, a small village in central Galilee. After unexpected events kept them away for several years, they returned. The majority of Jesus' life was spent there. His ministry and disciples were based in that area of Galilee. Jesus was known as "the Nazarene."

When she saw Peter warming himself, she looked closely at him and said, You also were with that Nazarene, Jesus.” But he denied it.

(Mark 14:67)

Pilate had a notice prepared and fastened to the cross. It read: Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews.

(John 19:19)

[regarding Paul] We have found this man to be a trouble-maker, stirring up riots... He is a ringleader of the Nazarene sect... *(Acts 24:5)*

Tertullian (200 A.D.) “The Jews call us Nazarenes”

Eusebius (300) A.D. “We who are now called Christians received in the past the name “Nazarenes.”

Nazareth then... @500 population

Nazareth today... 70,000 population

Arab majority

70% Muslim

30% Christian



Sources: AP, ESRI

Associated Press







Nazareth > Bethlehem... DAVID

David unified all of the Israelite tribes
to become one people

David ruled over them and was given
a covenant from God (11 Sam. 7:16)
that Israel's throne would belong to his
descendants forever.

We are familiar with the Bethlehem prophecy (Micah 5:2). But there was also a prophecy regarding Jesse' "branch" (Isaiah 11:1-6) which is apparently referred to by Matthew (2:23). The word branch (Heb. = **nzr**) is the root word of **NaZaReth**.

Nazareth gave way to Bethlehem for the BIRTH of Jesus because Joseph (and Mary) was a descendant of King David. This link of Jesus > David highlights the role of Jesus as King. I must let Jesus rule over the affairs of my life and acknowledge that Jesus will ultimately rule as king of every heart!

Bethlehem > Egypt... HEROD

The fantasy has always been afoot that
FORCE AND FEAR can dictate belief
or control hearts. This is Satanic in
origin and purpose!

In this case, the family fled persecution.
Jesus (later) made it clear that his kingdom
emphasized truth rather than politics,
spiritual over **physical** (*John 18:36*)

Responding to persecution, Christians have chosen violence, legal battle, flight, hiding, and no self-defense at all. The Bible teaches that whenever or however we are persecuted, God understands our anguish and God will **sustain** us!

Egypt > Nazareth... “common” people

Matthew 2:15 “Out of Egypt I have
called my son.”

The family returned to Nazareth because it was their home! Jesus lived there until he was 30 (Luke 3:23). He began ministry there and stayed in the general area until the final stage of his ministry. Why? Nazareth represented both **familiarity** and **accountability**. These are both keys to effective ministry.

As with Jesus at Nazareth (*Lk. 4:16, 28-30*), sometimes familiarity leads to rejection. But when confronted with ignorance such as this (*Jn. 6:42*), Jesus sought to persuade and change ignorance into **greater vision**.

Nazareth was the place where Jesus poured his life into people. His MISSION was not to be famous (David) or dodge bullets (Herod), but love, help, and challenge every needy soul who came to him. THAT IS STILL THE SAME TODAY!

Nazareth > Jerusalem... PILATE/CEASAR

The final journey of Jesus took him to the city where the great TEMPLE stood, the very hill where. Both Abraham and David had offered dramatic sacrifices to God... to offer his own life.

Bearing our sin, representing every sinner, this journey was not God coming unto man but man coming unto God.